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EPA SAMPLING UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently sampling the monitoring wells installed in and around the former Raymark Facility. This work began in mid-November and will continue through mid-January, with a 2 week break for the Christmas and New Years holidays.

Groundwater sampling will occur at around 300 monitoring well locations. Many wells are located in a cluster arrangement where there are 2 - 3 wells of different depths grouped together. These locations are primarily in public streets and on commercial properties. Soil gas samples will also be collected at 30 permanent monitoring stations located within the residential area bounded by Housatonic Avenue and Ferry Boulevard. These locations are again primarily in the public streets, co-located with the groundwater wells. There are a few in the backyards of residential homes.

The sampling crews' will be in vehicles that are white cube vans and pick-up trucks. The usual work day for the sampling will be between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional work outside these hours will be performed by the sample crews at the staging area at 600 East Broadway.

Prior to groundwater sampling, wells are evaluated on whether they need to be "developed." Development essentially cleans out the sediments that have accumulated and allows a clean water sample to be removed. After development, sampling of each well involves installing a long cylindrical pump into the well to extract groundwater at various depths. It can take up to two hours to perform this sampling at each monitoring well.

EPA is performing this sampling as a comprehensive effort to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination and the rate of contaminant movement that may be migrating from the former Raymark Facility.

Results of the sampling are anticipated to be published in spring 2003 as part of the Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report. This report will detail the extent of contamination and initiate discussion on the possible cleanup options for the groundwater.

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